In the Claims:

1. An interactive editing system for a plurality of users at respective remote locations for permitting any of the users to edit a file to be edited, comprising:

5   a plurality of personal computers, one for each of the users, at least one of said personal computers using multi-tasking processing means, the one of said personal computers using the multi-taking processing means coordinating editing by the users through said 10   respective personal computers of the file to be edited; and

interconnecting means for interconnecting said personal computers.

2. An interactive editing system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a plurality of voice communication means, one associated with each of said personal computers, for 5   enabling voice communication between the users.

3. An interactive editing system according to Claim 1, wherein said interconnecting means is a non-dedicated digital communications system and said personal computers communicate digitally over the non-5   dedicated digital communications system.

4. An interactive editing system according to Claim 2, wherein said interconnecting means is a non-dedicated digital network, and the non-dedicated digital network links both said personal computers and said 5   voice communication means.

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5. An interactive editing system according to Claim 1, wherein said interconnecting means comprises modems associated with each of said personal computers, and an analog communications link, and

5   wherein each of said personal computers includes data compression/decompression means so that data to be communicated between said personal computers is compressed before being sent over the analog communications link and decompressed when received from

10   the analog communications link.

6. An interactive editing system according to Claim 1, wherein said interconnecting means is an integrated services digital network.

7. An interactive editing system according to Claim 1, wherein said interconnecting means comprises modems associated with each of said personal computers, and an analog communications link, and

5   wherein each of the modems includes data compression/ decompression means so that data to be communicated between said personal computers is compressed before being sent over the analog communications link and decompressed when received from

10   the analog communications link.

8. An interactive editing system according to Claim 1, wherein said interconnecting means comprises modems associated with each of said personal computers, and an analog communications link, and

5   wherein either each of said personal computers or the modems associated with each of said personal

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computers include data compression/decompression means
so that data to be communicated between said personal
computers is compressed before being sent over the
10   analog communications link and decompressed when
received from the analog communications link.

9. A system for substantially simultaneously editing a file by any of a plurality of users, comprising:

a plurality of personal computers, one for each of the users, each of said personal computers including means for inputting and means for displaying; and

interconnecting means for interconnecting said personal computers,

wherein said personal computers include means for coordinating input to any of the input means so that the file can be substantially simultaneously edited from any of said personal computers.

10. A system for substantially simultaneously editing a file according to Claim 9, wherein the coordinating means is linked to the input means and display means of each of said personal computers utilizing said interconnecting means, and the coordinating means sequentially polls the input from each of the input means, performs any requested operation on the file, and sends data indicative of the requested operation to all of the display means as the operation is carried out.

11. A system for substantially simultaneously editing a file according to Claim 10, further comprising:

a plurality of voice communication means, one associated with each of said personal computers, for enabling voice communication between the users.

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12. A system for substantially simultaneously editing a file according to Claim 10, wherein said interconnecting means is a non-dedicated digital communications system and said personal computers communicate digitally over the non-dedicated digital communications system.

13. A system for substantially simultaneously editing a file according to Claim 11, wherein said interconnecting means is a non-dedicated digital network, and the non-dedicated digital network links both said personal computers and said voice communication means.

14. A system for substantially simultaneously editing a file according to Claim 10, wherein said interconnecting means comprises means for converting digital signals to analog signals and analog signals to digital signals associated with each of said personal computers, and an analog communications link for connecting the converting means, and

wherein each of said personal computers includes data compression/decompression means so that data to be communicated between said personal computers is compressed before being sent over the analog communications link and decompressed when received from the analog communications link.

15. A system for substantially simultaneously editing a file according to Claim 10, wherein said personal computers are grouped in a plurality of local area networks, and said interconnecting means includes

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5   bridges for allowing communication between said personal

computers on different ones of the local area networks.

16. A system for substantially simultaneously

editing a file according to Claim 10, wherein said

interconnecting means comprises means for converting

digital signals to analog signals and analog signals to

5   digital signals associated with each of said personal

computers, and an analog communications link for

connecting the converting means, and

wherein the converting means includes means for

compressing data before the data is sent over the analog

10   communications link and decompressing the data when the

data is received from the analog communications link.

17. A system for substantially simultaneously

editing a file according to Claim 10, wherein the

coordinating means can lock out any of the users so that

the input by a locked-out user will not be considered by

5   the coordinating means.

18. A method for substantially simultaneously editing a file from any of a plurality of personal computers situated at remote locations, at least one of which has multi-tasking capabilities, comprising the steps of:

interconnecting the personal computers over a communications link; and

processing the file under control of the one of the personal computers having the multi-tasking capabilities according to instructions input from any of the personal computers.

19. A method for substantially simultaneously editing a file according to Claim 18 further comprising, prior to said interconnecting step, the step of establishing voice communications between users at each of the personal computers.

20. A method for substantially simultaneously editing a file according to claim 18, wherein the communications link is a non-dedicated digital network.

21. A method for substantially simultaneously editing a file according to claim 18, wherein the communications link includes means for converting digital signals to analog signals and analog signals to digital signals associated with each of the personal computers and an analog communications system for connecting the converting means.

22. A method for substantially simultaneously editing a file according to Claim 19, wherein the personal computers are interconnected and the voice

communications are established over the same

5   communications link.

23. An interactive editing system for a plurality of users at respective remote locations for permitting any of the users to edit a file to be edited, comprising:

5   a personal computer using multi-tasking processing means for use by one of the users;

a plurality of remote terminals, one for use by each of the remaining users; and

interconnecting means for interconnecting said
10   personal computer with each of said remote terminals,

wherein said personal computer coordinates editing by the users through said personal computer and said respective remote terminals of the file to be edited.

24. An interactive editing system according to Claim 23, further comprising:

a plurality of voice communication means, one associated with each of said remote terminals and said
5   personal computer, for enabling voice communication between the users.

25. An interactive editing system according to Claim 23, wherein said interconnecting means is a non-dedicated digital communications sytem and said personal computer and said remote terminals communicate digitally
5   over the non-dedicated digital communications system.

26. An interactive editing system according to Claim 23, wherein said interconnecting means comprises modems associated with each of said personal computer and said remote terminals and an analog communications
5   link, and

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wherein each of the modems includes data compression/decompression means so that data to be communicated between said personal computer and said remote terminals is compressed before being sent over the analog commuications link and decompressed when received from the analog communications link.

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